Allotment of blocks to ONGC and Reliance

2377. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and Reliance Industries Limited have been allotted blocks by the Ministry for oil and gas exploration in the country recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the total investment in the oil and gas exploration and the gestation period for production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir, total 25 exploration blocks have been awarded to M/s. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and its consortium and 7 exploration blocks have been awarded to M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) under Sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI).

(b) The committed investment under NELP-VI in the allotted blocks of ONGC is about US$ 617 Million and by RIL US$ 490 Million respectively. Exploration period for onland and shallow water blocks is 7 year and for deepwater offshore and frontier onland blocks is 8 years. Production depends on the success of exploration efforts in the awarded blocks.

Development of tea tourism circuit in North Bengal

†2378. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 388.98 lakh has been sanctioned for the development of tea tourism circuit in North Bengal during the year, 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details of the tea gardens identified for the development;

(c) the number of gardens of Darjeeling hill areas identified under this scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.